रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) (क) जी. नहीं,

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

MODERNISATION OF ORDNANCE DEPOTS

3122. SHRI RAM SINGH RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken the work of modernisation of ordnance depots in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the depot-wise details thereof ; and

(c) what scheme have been formulated in this regard during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Ordnance Depots is a continuous process. During the last two years, several equipment for communication, security and fire fighting, material handling and office automation were provided to the various depots in the country. Government has also taken up a major modernisation programme and Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur has been selected as a first step. The process of selection of a Consultant for preparation of the detailed projedt report has been taken up. The modernisation of other depots shall be carried out after the successful completion of the modernisation of COD, Kanpur.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING INDIAN NAVY

3123. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek private sector participation in building Indian Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US OFFER ON LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT

3124. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have offered help to India for accomplishing the Light Combat Aircraft project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the United States have started collaboration with India on the LCA in certain specialised areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the offer and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Agreement was signed in 1987 betwen the Govt. of India and the US Govt. for cooperation in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme. The agreement envisages Govt-to-Govt. cooperation through laboratory-to-laboratory interaction and training in advanced aeronautical technologies of relevance to the LCA. The agreement also enable direct commercial sales of items needed for the programme. The US Govt. has also issued a document in 1987 on technologies and products which have been cleared for release to India and briefed the US aerospace industry.

In 1992, a contract was concluded between Aeronautical Development Estab-

lishment, Bangalore and Martin Marietta Corporation, USA for the joint development of the Quadruplex digital fight control systems for the LCA.

SUPPLY OF ITEMS TO AIRMEN

3125. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some officers of Indian Air Force in some units are compelling Airmen to manage entitled items of their own ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide the entitled items to the Airmen at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PROMOTION TO ARMY OFFICIALS

3126. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances under which Maj. Gen. D. K. Das committed suicide on December 6, 1993 in New Delhi ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Maj. Gen. Das was denied the opportunity of promotion to the next higher rank and was mentally upset and depressed;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which Maj. Gen. Das was not considered for promotion; and

(d) whether there is any resentment and dissatisfaction among other Army officers for being denied justice to them in promotion matters and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) Government is not aware of the circumstances under which Maj. Gen. D.K. Das was committed suicide. The General Officer, alongwith other eligible officers, was to be considered for promotion to the next higher rank by the Selection Board. Maj. Gen. D.K. Das had, therefore, not been superseded.

There are no reports of any discontentment in the Army with regard to the existing system on promotion matters.

PUBLIC RELATION SET-UP IN DEFENCE SERVICES

3127. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence services of the country are the only professional group in the world who do not control their own public relations and it is being done through the Indian Information Service who are hardly qualified to handle professional media querry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Public Relations posts are lying vacant in the defence services ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to revamp the public relations set-up in the defence services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. In other countries as well, public relations requirements of various Government departments are looked after by professionals in public relations and media management. We have a specialised cadre in the Indian Information Service for this purpose. Information dissemination and public relations for all departments of Government is the